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THE DESTRUCTION OF CITIES ,TOWNS A D VILLAGES

INDUSTRY, TRANSPORTATION A D COMMUNICATIONS.

TRIAL COUNSEL:

ASSTISTANT CHIEF PROSECUTOR FROM THE USSR

M.Y.R A G I N S K Y

STATE CONCILLOR OF JUSTICE, 2nd CLASS.

H5153 – 0002

H5153 - 0003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Introduction	Page 1
II.	General Directives Concerning the Destruction of Inhabited Localities	1 - 11
III.	The Hitlerite plans to destroy the capitals of the USSR, Yugoslavia and Poland	11 - 22
IV.	The Burning of Inhabited Localities under the Pretence of fighting the Partisans	23 - 29
V.	The Destruction of Cities, Towns and Villages, of Industry and Transport, in the territory of the USSR	29 - 47
VI.	Conclusion	47 - 48

THE DESTRUCTION OF VILLAGES AND TOWNS, INDUSTRY, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS.

May it please Your Honors,

I begin the submission of evidence to prove the charge that the defendants are guilty of the wanton destruction of towns and villages and other destruction. This charge is laid down by paragraph "C" of the 3rd Count of the Indictment.

We will submit evidence which will prove that the destruction of towns and villages was not carried out as the result of any exigences of war or military necessity.

We will submit evidence that deliterate destruction was carried out in accordance with the thoroughly elaborated plans of the Hitlerite Government and in accordance with the orders of the German military command; that the destruction of towns and villages, of industry and transportation, was an integral part of the conspiracy which aimed at the enslavement of the peoples of Europe and those of other countries, at the establishment of a world hegemony of Hitlerite Germany.

II. General directives concerning the destruction of inhabited localities.

Everywhere where the German fascist invaders came they brought death and destruction. In the flames of fires perished the most valuable machines created by the genius of mankind, factories and dwellings were blown up which gave work and shelter to millions of people.

People themselves perished, especially old men, women and children, and those who were left without a roof over their heads and without any means of existence.

H5153 - 0004

H5153 – 0005

With particular exasperation the Hitlerites plundered and destroyed the towns and villages in the territories which they temporarily held, where, acting on direct orders of the German High Command, they created a "waste zone".

As a proof I will quote an excerpt from the note by V.M.Molotov, Peoples' Commisser of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, of 6 January 1942 which was submitted to the Tribunal as exhibit USSR-51/2. This excerpt will be found on page 3 of document book 7.

I quote:

"... An order seized not long ago near the town of Verkhovye, Orel Region, issued to the 512th German Infantry Regiment and signed by Colonel Schitnig stated with unparalleled brazenness: "A zone which in view of the situation may be evacuated must, after the withdrawal of the troops, present a waste. ... At points where complete destruction has to be achieved, all the houses are to be burnt, for which purpose they are first to be stuffed with straw, particularly stone houses. Structures of stone are to be blown up; this applies particularly to cellars. Measures for the creation of devastated zones are to be prepared beforehand and carried out relentlessly and completely."

USSR 168

In razing our towns and villages, the German Command demands of its troops that a "waste zone" be created in all Soviet localities from which the invaders are successfully expelled by the Red Army."

H5153 - 0006

 168

The order which is mentioned in the note I offer in evidence as exhibit USSR-168.

It is proved by this document that the German military command had ordered a ruthless and complete destruction of inhabited localities and that this destruction was planned and prepared in advance.

Concerning this question a large number of documents and facts are in the possession of the Soviet Prosecution. I will limit myself to reading into the record an excerpt from the sentence of the regional military Tribunal in the case against Lieut. General Bernhardt and Maj-General Hamann which I submit to the Tribunal as exhibit USSR-90 (the respective excerpt will be found on pages 23, 25 of document book 7). 90

The military Tribunal established that the generals Bernhardt and Hemann had acted in accordance with the common plans and directives of the Supreme Command of the German Army and that they

> "had carried out a planned destruction of towns and inhabited localities and that it was laid down in advance that beside the destruction of industrial buildings, the destruction of hospitals, sanatoriums, educational institutions, museums, and other cultural educational institutions as well as dwelling houses, should be carried out. The latter were blown up without any advance notice being given to the Soviet citizens who lived there, as the result of which people also perished under the debris."

As in the case of the destruction of inhabited localities, plants and factories, power-stations and mines were also destroyed with premeditation and malice aforethought.

For confirmation of this statement I will draw the attention of the Tribunal to the report of the Extraordinary State Commission which was submitted as exhibit USSR-2 (page 2 of document book 7).

In this report is quoted the secret directive of the Leader of the Department of Economics of the second army group of 2 September 1943 No. 1/313/43, which ordered the army leaders of economics and the leaders of economic parties to carry out a complete destruction of industrial establishments and stated in particular that " the destruction must be carried out not at the last moment when the troops will be engaged in combat or may be in retreat, but ahead of time."

The note by V.M. Molotov, Peoples Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, of 27 April 1943, elaborates the question of these orders of the German Supreme Command and the way these orders were executed. This note was submitted to the Tribunal as exhibit USSR-51/3.

I will now quote several excerpts from part II of the note just mentioned which is entitled "The devastation of towns and villages", excerpts which were not read into the record before. (These excerpts will be found on pages 6 and 7 of document book 7.) I quote:

" By direct order of its High Command the German-fascist army subjects Soviet towns and villages to unparalleled devastion upon seizing the latter and in the course of its stay there, setting fire to and otherwise destroying dwellings of Soviet citizens, schools, hospitals, museums, theatres, clubhouses, all kinds of public buildings and other structures. Thus, an Order to the 18th German Army, dated October 10, 1941, states:

H5153-0007

H5153 - 0008

"The troops are interested in extinguishing fires only in those buildings which are to be utilized for billeting military units. Everything else ...including buildings, must be regarded as coming within the scope of a war of extermination."

At the end of 1941 and the beginning of 1942 the German Commend issued a number of orders instructing the units of the German army to destroy in the course of their retreat under pressure of the Red Army everything that had remained unscathed during their occupation. Thousands of villages, whole city blocks and even entire cities are reduced to ashes, blown up or otherwise razed to the ground by the retreating German-fascist army. The organized destruction of Soviet towns and villages has become a special branch of the criminal activity of the German invaders on Soviet territory; special instructions and detailed orders of the German Command are devoted to methods of devastating Soviet populated centres; special detachments, trained in this criminal profession, are set up for this purpose.

Here are some of the numerous facts at the disposal of the Soviet Government:

An Order dated December 10, 1941, to the 512th Infantry Regiment of the 293rd German Division is an exposition, covering seven printer's sheets, of the preciseat possible plan for the methodical destruction of village after village, from December 10th to December 14th inclusive in the district in which the given regiment was stationed. This order which follows a model used throughout the German army, states:

"Preparations for the destruction of populated centres must be carried out in such a way that: (a) no suspicions whatever are aroused among the civilian population prior to the announcement of it; (b) the destruction should begin at once, and be carried out by a single blow, at the appointed time....On the day in question particularly strict watch must be kept to see that no civilians leave the given place, especially not after the destruction has been announced....With a view to improving the winter quarters occupied by the regiment it is permitted to appropriate household utensils, kerosene, nails, frying pans, pots, lamps, chairs, pails, rope, sacks, foodstuffs. The cattle is to be taken off. ..."

H5153 - 0009

An Order of the Commander of the 98th German Infantry Division dated December 24, 1941, states, after listing sixteen Soviet villages designated to be burnt down:

"Stocks of hay, straw, foodstuffs, etc., are to be burnt. All stoves in dwelling houses are to be wrecked by placing hand grenades in them, thus making further use of them impossible. This order must in no case fall into the hands of the enemy."

... The following Order of January 3, 1942, issued by Hitler, will serve as an example:

"Headquarters of the Fuehrer (Hitler)
"Order of the Fuehrer January 3, 1942.

"The present juncture demands that we hold on to every populated centre, that we do not retreat a single step, that we defend ourselves to the last man, to the last grenade. Every point that we occupy must be turned into a stronghold, the surrender of which we must not permit under any circumstances, even if it is outflanked by the enemy. If, however, the given point must be abandoned by us by order of the higher command, it is imperative that everything be burnt to the ground, the stoves blown up. ...

"Signed: Adolf Hitler."

Nor did that pogrom-maker Hitler feel any embarrassment about publicly admitting that the devastation of Soviet towns and villages is the work of his army. In his speech of January 30, 1942, he declared: "In those places where the Russians have succeeded in making a breakthrough and where they thought that they were once again occupying populated centres, these populated centres no longer exist: they are but a heap of ruins."

While retreating from the Kuban region under the thrust of the Red Army, the German High Command worked out a detailed plan of operations which bore the code name of "Movement Krimhilde", and a large part of this plan, a vital section, was taken up by the plan of demolitions (destruction). This plan envisaged the transformation of the Kuban region into "a completely depopulated waste land which will be useless for a long period of time and where for months to come mine explosions will take place." This plan is contained in a 2-page secret document transmitted by telegraph to the chiefs of higher staffs.

is signed by Hitler and has the following notations on the first page:

"Secret /s/ 2371. 17 copies, 17th copy, No. 2086/43
Received: .9.43. For officers only"

There are shown on the second page, under Hitler's signature, the number 43058/47 and the date 4.9.1943; on page 3 is the distribution as well as the following note: " Code name of operation for retreat from the Kuban region is 'movement Krimhilde'. "

The photostat copy of this plan . . listed as C-177, I now submit to the Tribunal as exhibit USSR-115 (it is contained on pages 31-33 of document book 7).

I will read into the record a excerpt from this document, that is to say the 2nd paragraph of the order:

"2. Demolitions in case of retreat.

(a) All structures, quartering facilities, roads, cultural features, dams, etc. which may be useful to the enemy must be utterly destroyed.

(b) All railroads and highways will be dismantled or demolished respectively.

(c) All wood-covered corduroy roads will be made unuseable and destroyed.

(d) All drilling installations of the Kuban region will be demolished in their entirety.

(e) The harbor of Novorossiysk will be so demolished and clocked that its use by the Russian navy will be prevented for a long period of time.

(f) Demolitions include mining of terrain.

(g) The enemy must gain possession of a completely depopulated waste land which will be useless for a long period of time and where for months to come mine explosions will take place".

Many other documents bear witness of similar orders but may I draw the attention of the Tribunal to only two of them: I have in mind an entry in the diary of the defendent Frank which is pertinent to the question under discussion, as well as a directive issued by the comm nding general of 118th German/
/Division which operated in Yugoslavia.

H5153 - 0010

The diary of Frank which has already been submitted to the Tribunal shows the following entry of 17.4.44 contained in the folder, which was begun on 1.3.44 and carried on until 31.5.44, and which bears the name "Work Conference at Cracow on 12.4.44".

".... It is important that the troops be given an order to abandon only scorched earth to the Russians. In cases when it becomes necessary to abandon a certain area to the Russians, no distinction should be made between the territory of the Government-General and any other territories". (This excerpt will be found on page 45 of document book 7.)

May I drew the attention of the Tribunal to the secret directive issued to the 118th German division over the signature of the German Major General Kuebler, which was captured in June 1944 by units of the Yugoslav Peoples Liberation army. It ordered the troops to treat the population "ruthlessly with cruel firmness" and to destroy the inhabited localities yielded.

May it please Your Honors, in concluding this part of my presentation I deem it necessary to draw the attention of the Tribunal to one more circumstance.

The destruction of peaceful towns and villages was not only planned, not only carried out deliberately and with exceptional ruthlessness, but it was executed by special detachments created by the German High Command for that very purpose. By way of proof I will quote several excerpts from the note of V.M. Molotov, People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs to the USSR and from the reports of the Extraordinary State Commission which were not yet read into the record.

In the note of 27 April 1943 which was submitted to the Tribunal as exhibit USSR-51/3 it was stated as follows:

H5153 – 0011

H5153 - 0012

" The special detachments set up by the German Command for the purpose of setting fire to Soviet populated centres and exterminating the civilian population en masse as an accompaniment to the retreat of the Hitlerite army are perpetrating their bloodthirsty deeds with the cold-bloodedness of professional criminals. Thus, for instance, before their retreat from the village of Bolshekrepinskaya, Rostov Region, the Germans sent special flame-throwing machines down the streets of the village, these machines setting fire to 1,167 buildings, one after the other. The big flourishing village was turned into a flaming bonfire which consumed the dwelling houses, the hospital, the school and various other public buildings. At the same time, without giving any warning, automatic-riflemen shot down the inhabitants who approached their burning houses, while other residents were bound, sprayed with gasoline and thrown into the burning buildings."

In the note of 6. January 1942 which was submitted to the Tribunal as exhibit USSR-51/2, the following facts are quoted:

On leaving the villages of Krasnaya Polyana, Myshetskoye, Ozherelye and Vysskovo of the Moscow Region, the Germans ordered a detail of automatic-riflemen to pour bottles of liquid fuel upon the houses, which were then set on fire. The Germans opened automatic-rifle fire on any of the inhabitants who attempted to extinguish the flames. Of the 80 farmsteads in the village of Myshetskoye, 5 houses were left standing; of 200 farmsteads in Ozherelye-8. In the village of Vysskovo of 76 houses 3 are intact; and for the words: "do not burn my house," F.K. Grigoryev, a seventy-year-old farmer, was shot."

In their insane hatred of the Soviet people which was caused by military defeats suffered, the commanding General of the 2nd German Tank Army, General Schmidt,

H5153 - 0013

and the commander of the Orel administration region , the military commander of the city, Major General Hemann had created special demolition detachments for the destruction of towns, villages and collective farms of the Orel regions. These squads of plunderers and arsonists destroyed everything in the path of their retreat. They destroyed monuments of culture and works of art, burnt down towns and villages both large and small".

The Report of the Extraordinary State Commission on the "Crimes of the German-fascist invadors in the towns of Viazma, Gjatsk, and Sychevka of the Smolensk Region and in the town of Rjev of the Kalinin Region", submitted as exhibit USSR-279, contains the following statement:

"In Viazma and Gjatsk the commanding generals Major-General Merker of the 35th Infantry Division, Major-General Schaefer of the 252nd Infantry Division, and Major-General Roppert of the 7th Infantry Division organised special incendiary and demolition detachments to set on fire and blow up dwellings, schools, theatres, clubs, museums, libraries, hospitals, churches, stores, and industrial plants,so that only ashes and ruins would be left in the wake of the German retreat."

The Report of the Extraordinary State Commission, submitted as exhibit USSR-2 states as follows:

"Special engineer detachments went around the schools, poured inflammable fluid over them and set them on fire. Whenever a Soviet citizen attempted to put the fire out, he was shot on the spot.

Verholtz Hermann, a captured corporal from the 597th Infantry Regiment of the 30 .th Division of the German Army, deposed as follows:

"As member of a demolition squad I took part in setting fire to and blowing up government buildings and dwelling houses in "First Line", the main street of the town of Stalino. My job was to place the explosives, which I then ignited and blew up the buildings. I participated altogether in the demolition of five large houses and in the burning of several others."

Another prisoner of war, lance-corporal Johann Gold of the 574th infantery regiment of the 304th division, stated: "In the town of Stalino I personally burnt down one house and blew up two other big buildings. In two buildings the peaceful population dwelt, and in the third there was a grain--store. Before the explosion I did not warn the inhabitants about it and did not consider it necessary to warn them, as we were ordered not to enter into any conversations, but to blow up and burn down independently of whether there were inhabitants in the houses or not. Immediately after the blowing up of one of the houses I heard the crying and weeping of women and children, and saw killed and wounded amongst them, crushed by stones and beams, but I did not pay any attention to that".

I quote, finally, a fact stated in the expose of the Extraordinary State commission and presented to the Tribunal as document No.USSR-47. This fact refers to the destruction of the town of Odessa.

"Emil Albrecht", a lance-corporal in the demolitions detachment of the 420th battalion of the 203rd German division, testified:

" On the morning of the 8th April, we received a plan from lieutenant Miller, on which the blocks which I and my companion had to blow up were indicated. On the 7th April 1944 I had to find out how many families lived in Havana street. Entering one of the courtyards, I descwered that there were 40 apartments in it. I had to return and report on this to lieutenant Miller, who, on the morning of the 8th, gave us the order to blow up these apartments together with the inhabitants on the night of the 8th/9th according to the plan".

(This extract is on page 66 of document book No.7)

Thus we are dealing not with isolated facts, but with a system carefully worked out and applied generally.

III. The Hitlerites' plans to destroy the capitals of the USSR, Yugoslavia and Poland.

In the criminal ideas of the Fascist conspirators a special place was occupied by the destruction of Moscow and Leningrad.

H5153 - 0014

Intoxicated by the first military successes, the Hitlerites elaborated crazy plans for the destruction of the greatest cultural and industrial centres dear to the Soviet people; they had already prepared for this purpose special Sonderkommandos. They even hastened to state their "decision" to refuse the capitulation of these towns, which never took place at all!

It is necessary to note that such expressions as "raze to the ground" or "wipe off the face of the earth" were used quite frequently by the Hitlerite conspirators, and these were not only threats but criminal acts as well. As we shall see from the further exposotion, they did in some places succeed in razing flourishing towns and villages to the ground. And only the will and valour of the Soviet nation and of the armies of our allies stopped the criminal activity of the conspirators, who intended to raze to the ground whole districts and even provinces.

I present to the Tribunal and shall read 2 documents exposing the intentions of the Hitlerite conspirators.

The first document, numbered C 124 and presented to the Tribunal as No.USSR-113, is a secret directive of the Naval Staff, numbered Ia 1601/41 (this document is to be found in document book No.7 on pages 67 and 68).

On the first page of this document, apart from the text, it is indicated:

"Berlin, 29 September 1941. Top secret. Attention Chief of Staff. Only by officer.

Allocated to : Army Group Nord - copy No.1.

Navy Liason Officer by Army Group Nord - copy No.2.

Subject: The future of city of Peterburg".

On page 2 of the document there is a pencil note containing the following:

H5153 - 0015

"In case the situation should develop otherwise than is planned, a necessary organisation should be set up, and there will still be time to do it later on."

I read the text:

" I). In order to obtain a clear view of the measures to be adopted by the Navy in case St. Petersburg should be occupied or should surrender, the question of further military operations against this city was made clear by the Chief of Staff, Naval War Staff to the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces.

The result is reported as follows:

II). The Fuehrer is resolved to have St. Petersburg wiped off the face of the earth. The further existence of this large town is of no interest once Soviet Russia is overthrown. Finland has also similarly declared no interest in the continued existence of the city directly on her new frontier.

III). The original demands of the Navy: that the dockyard - harbor - and other installations important to the Navy be preserved, are known to the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces, but in view of the basic principles underlying the operation against St. Petersburg, it is not possible to comply with them.

IV). The intention is to close in on the city and raze it to the ground by bombardment of artillery of all calibres and by continuous air attack.

Requests that the city may be handed over, arising from the situation withing, will be turned down, ... "

The second document, bearing the number C-123 and presented to the Court as USSR-114 is also a secret directive of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces, dated the 7th October 1941, numbered 44 1675/44 and signed by the defendant Jodl (this document is to be found in document book No. 7 on pages 69 and 70).

On the first page, besides the text, are the superscriptions:

H5153 - 0016

H5153 – 0017

On the left side:

"Supreme Command of the Armed Forces.
No. 44 1675/44 Most Secret
S.O. only. Ops. Staff of the
Armed Forces / (10 PS).

S. O. Only
Access only through officer.

Reference: Army Supreme Command
(Ops. Section)
No. 41 244/41 Most Secret
dated 18 Sept. 41.

On the right side:

Fuehrer's Hq, 7 Oct. 41.

14 copies

2nd copy

Naval Supreme Command
OPS 1690/41

Received: 7.10.
Enclosures: .....

Besides this, these is a pencil note:

"Please submit for judgement"

and marginal notes in pencil.

On page 2, after Jodl's signature, is the note "certified correct, Falk, captain on the Gen. Staff."

I read the text of this document:

"The Fuehrer has again decided that a capitulation of Leningrad or later of Moscow is not to be accepted even if offered by the enemy.

The moral justification for this measure is clear to the whole world. Just as in Kiev, our troops were subject to extreme danger through explosions with time-fuses, the same must be expected to a still greater degree in Moscow and Leningrad. The Soviet radio itself has broadcast that the foundations of Leningrad were mined and the city would be defended to the last man. Extreme danger of epidemics is to be expected.

Therefore no German soldier is to enter these cities. Anyone who tries to leave the city through our lines is to be forced to return under fire.

The Exodus of the population through the smaller, unguarded gaps towards the Interior of Russia to be allowed. Before all other cities are taken,

H5153 - 0018

softened
they are to be ./... up by artillery fire and airraids and their population forced to flee.

We cannot take the responsibility of endangering our soldiers' lives by fire in order to save Russian cities, nor that of feeding the population of these cities at the expense of the German home-land. All commanding officers must be acquainted with this desire of the Fuehrer.

The Hitlerite conspirators began to put their criminal ideas regarding the destruction of Leningrad into effect with unprecedented ferocity.

In the report of the Leningrad City Commission for the Investigation of the misdeeds of the German-fascist Occupiers, the monstrous crimes of the Hitlerites described in detail.

This document has already been presented to the Court as testimony as USSR-85 (it is to be found in document book No. 7 on page 71).

I shall read the general data quoted on page 1 of the report, which corresponds to page of document book No. 7).

"As a result of the barbarous activities of the German-fascist usurpers in Leningrad and its suburbs 8,961 buildings of economic importance and outbuildings with a total volume of 5,192,427 cubic metres were totally ruined and 5,869 buildings with a total volume of 14,308,285 cubic metres were partically ruined. 20,627 dwellings with a total volume of 25,439,790 cubic meters.

H5153 - 0019

metres were totally destroyed and 8,788 buildings with a cubic capacity of 10,981,055 cubic metres were partially ruined. 205 buildings of importance to cultural life with a total volume of 844,162 cubic metres were completely destroyed and 1,629 buildings with a total volume of 4,798,644 cubic metres partially ruined. 6. buildings serving religious cults were totally destroyed and 66 partially ruined. The Hitlerites destroyed, ruined and damaged various kinds of buildings of a value of over 718 million roubles, and over 1,043 million roubles worth of industrial equipment and agricultural machinery and implements".

The Hitlerites bombed and shelled, methodically and according to plan, day and night, streets, dwelling-houses, theatres, museums, hospitals, kindergartens, military hospitals, schools, institutes and trams, and ruined very valuable monuments of culture and art. Many thousands of bombs and shells were launched at the historical buildings of Leningrad, and at its quays, gardens and parks.

The following suffered: the Winter Palace, the grandiose Admiralty building which was a characteristic monument of Leningrad and one of the finest buildings in Europe of the classical period, the Engineers' castle, built in 1797 - 1801, the historical building of the Tavritchevsky Palace, put up in 1788, the ensemble of the Petropavlovsk fortress the building of the former State Bank, the Head Post Office, the Elaginsky Palace, the Gostiny Dvor, built in 1758 - 85, the Stroganovsky Palace, the building of the former Corps of Pages, the Isaakevsky cathedral, the State Hermitage the public library, the building of the "Kirov" theatre, opera and ballet, the Academy of Arts, the ancient building of the State University, the Polytechnic Institute, the scientific institutes of the Academy of Sciences and the many other irreplaceable historical, artistic and scientific treasures of Leningrad.

H5153 - 0020

to conclude, I shall permit myself to cite one of the many testimonies by Germans which are quoted in the document, namely paragraph 4 on page 14.

You will find the testimony I am quoting on page 84 of document book No. 7.

"Serjeant Fritz Kepke, commanding No 2 gun of the 2nd battery of the 2nd detachment of the 910the artillery regiment stated:

"For the bombardment of Leningrad, there was a special stock of munitions in the batteries, supplied above the limit to an unbounded extent.

...All the gun-numbers knew that the bombardments of Leningrad were aimed at ruining the town and annihilating its civil population.. They therefore trated the bulletins of the German Supreme Command ironically, which spoke of shooting at the "military objectives" of Leningrad.".

The Hitlerite conspirators aimed at the complete destruction of the capital of Yugoslavia-Belgrade.

I remind you of document number 1746-PS, presented to the court on the 7th December 1945 as G-B-12C, which is an order by Hitler, dated the 27.3.41 and dealing with the attack on Yugoslavia. As is known, this order, entitled "Directive No. 25" gives in detail the strategic plan for the attack and, besides this, orders that all Yugoslav land defences and Belgrade should be destroyed by means of uninterrupted day and night air raids (the document mentioned is in document book No 7 on page 88)

H5153 - 0021

I shall refer also to the Yugoslav government report, presented to the court on the 11th February as document No. [illegible]-36, in which, on pages 7 and 8 (Russian translation, which corresponds to pages 96-97 of document book No.7) is quoted the testimony of the German General [illegible], who directly controlled the destruction of Belgrade from the air on the basis of a personal order from the defendant Goering.

I shall proceed to read some extracts from pages 22 and 23 of the report (this corresponds to pages 111 and 112 of document book No. 7), which testify to the destruction of Belgrade carried out by the Hitlerites in October 1944, at the moment the German [illegible] retreat.

I read:

"The planned character and systematic execution of these crimes at the order of the Government of the Reich and of the OKW, is best seen from the fact that the destruction of the inhabited localities and of the population was carried out even at the time of the retreat of German troops from the Yugoslav territory. Typical for the thousands of such cases is the attempted destruction of Belgrade and its citizens in October 1944. The fighting for the liberation of Belgrade lasted from the 15th to 20th October 1944. Already on the eve of the fighting, the Germans had prepared a plan for the systematic destruction of the city. For the purpose of carrying out this plan, they spread all over the city groups of soldiers specially trained for mining of houses and killing of population. Though these groups were partly prevented from carrying out this task in the scope conceived by the German commanders by the swift advance of the Red Army and the National Liberation Forces, they still suceaeded in destroying a large number of houses and in killing a certain number of inhabitants.

They did the same, only to a still greater extent, in the northern part of the City, near the point where the Rivers Sava and Danube meet. The Germans went from house to house, threw the inhabitants barefooted and naked into the streets, brought inflammables into every apartment, setting thus afire the whole house. If a house happened to be made of more solid materials, they would then mine it. While doing so, they were firing on the inhabitants, killing defenseless persons and in several larger houses they locked the inhabitent inside so that they should be burned to death or killed in the explosion of mines. The damage caused in this way to the City of Belgrade is estimated at the exchange value of 6 April 1941, to a total sum of Dinars 1.187.139.000."

Thus, the ruining of Belgrade was prescribed by Hitlers order of the 27.3.41, was carried out on direct orders from the defendant Goering, and in October 1944 was done with the same methods as the Hitlerites used in the occupied territory of the USSR..

I go on to present evidence of the planned and unexampled ruining by the Hitlerites of the capital of the Polish state - Warsaw.

I shall quote 3 documents which reveal the criminal intentions of the Fascist conspirators to "raze this town to the ground."

At the first document, under the number USSR - 128, I present to the court a telegram addressed to the governor - General, Reich Minister Doktor Frank, numbered 13365 and signed by the governor of the Warsaw district, Doktor Fischer (the telegram is to be found in Document book No. 7 on page 148). 128

I read an extract from this telegram:

"To the
Generalgouverneur
Reichsminister Dr. Frank

at Cracow

Warsaw No. 13 3 65 11.10.44. 10.20. - Hr - .

Subject: New policy with regard to Poland.

H5153 - 0022

H5153 - 0023

I have to inform you of the following result of the visit of SS-Lieutenant General (SS-Obergruppenfuehrer) von dem Bach to the Reichsfuehrer SS:

SS Lieutenant General von dem Bach has been given the new task of pacifying Warsaw,- that is, of razing Warsaw to the ground while the war is still on, where military requirements in the way of fortifications place no obstacles in the way. Before leaving, all raw materials, texiles, and furniture should be cleared out of Warsaw. The main task devolves on the civilian administration.

I am informing you of this because this new order of the Fuehrer with regard to the destruction of Warsaw is of the greatest importance for the further new policy with regard to Poland.

The Governor of the Warsaw District

at present Soehaczew

signed: Dr. Fischer.

The Bach-Selewsky mentioned in the telegram I have read out is known to you, your honours; he testified at the evening session of the tribunal on the 7th January.

How Obergruppenfuehrer von dem Bach-Selewsky of the SS carried out order Hitler's regarding the destruction of Warsow can be seen from the written evidence fiven by him on oath on the 28 th January 1946 during his interrogat by the public prosecutor of the Polish republick, Mr. Savitzky.

The original record of the interrogation in German, signed by Bach-Selewsky, I present to the Court as document No. USSR-313. I shall read two extracts from this record: 313

When I spoke with Reinfarth and told him that such actions are detrimental to morale and a shock to reason

H5153 - 0024

Reinefahrt referred to the order issued by Hitler and Himmler. This order, let us call it number I, laid down the following directives for the suppression of the Warsaw insurrection:

1. All insurrectionists were to be shot after being taken prisoner, regardless of whether the fighting they took part in was in accordance with the Geneva Convention or not.

2. The noncombattant portion of the population was to be wiped out without any distinction.

3. The whole city was to be levelled, that is, all houses, streets, and everything to be found in the city was to be destroyed.

I have heard of this order, not I alone, but also my chief of staff. I discussed this order, in the presence of the General of Police Rode, with Guderian. Rode and I together wanted to have him bring about the cancellation of this order by Hitler and Himmler, unfortunately he absolutely denied our request.

... 6. Responsible for the plundering of the city after the capitulation and for non-observance by the Germans of the capitulation terms, are the men named above, the governor of the Warsaw district, Dr. Fischer, and the Governor General Dr. Frank.

7. I know that in the city, following the capitulation, without possible military necessity, the houses were burned down and the city was robbed of all valuables. I know that there were so-called mopping-up detachments in the city after the capitulation, and that anything of value was taken and carried away. Whatever could not be carried out of the city was destroyed".

H5153 – 0025

Finally, I am reading an extract from the diary of the defendant Frank, presented to the Court as document No. USSR-223 (this extract is contained on page 45 of document book No. 7). I have in mind the file begun on the 1st August 1944 and carried on up to the 14th December 1944, headed "Diary", in which there is a note of the contents of a telegram sent by Frank to Reich Minister Lammers.

I read:

"On the 5th August 1944 the Governor-General sends the following telegram to Reich Minister Dr. Lammers: " The city of Warsaw is for the most part wreathed in flames. The burning of the houses is the most reliable method of preventing the escape of the insurgents. After this rising and its suppression, Warsaw will justly be committed to its deserved fate of being completely destroyed."

The documents quoted thus prove that the fascist conspirators set for themselves the aim of wiping the capital of the Polish State, Warsaw, from the face of the earth, that the destruction of Warsaw was directed by the Hitlerite Government and the German Supreme Command and that an extremely active role in this crime was played by the defendant Frank.

H5153 - 0026

IV. The burning of inhabited places under the pretence of fighting the partisans.

In all the territories of th USSR, Yugoslavia, Poland, Greece and Czechoslovakia occupied by them the German - Fascist usurpers destroyed inhabited places systematically and according to plan under the pretence of fighting the partisans.

Punitive expeditions, detachments and Commandos, specially detailed by the German military command, burnt down and blew up tens of thousands of villages, hamlets and other inhabited places.

Usually these monstrous crimes against the peaceful population were camouflaged by varions reports about partisan activity in these inhabited places.

From the numerous documents which the Soviet prosecution has at its disposal, I shall quote as examples a few which are typical and characterize the whole system used by the Hitlerites.

The report of a company commander, captain Kasper, dated the 27th September 1942 and entitled "Report on the results of the pacifying expedition carried out in the village of Borisovska from the 22nd to the 26th September 1942", starts as follows:

"I. Task: No. 9 Coy, had to destroy the band-infested village of Borisovska".

I present to the Court a certified photostat of this report, as document No.USSR - 119. The original is kept

H5153 - 0027

Extraordinary State Commission (in our document book Nr.7, this document is to be found on page 153).

From the document presented, I read separate extracts:

"... The specially detailed detachment, which included 3 to 4 Wachtmeister of the SD... simultaneously and systematically searched and destroyed the separate far-flung farms which formed part of the hamlet.

... In all, there were destroyed:

Within the inhabited place itself - 12 village farms and 8 stables, outside the hamlet 67 farmsteads.

By midday on the 26th the whole action was finished; the hamlet and its population had been destroyed".

In January 1942 in the Resekne district of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Germans destroyed the hamlet of Audriny with the whole of its population, ostensibly for aiding members of the Red Army. In the towns of Latvia a notice was put up by the chief of the German State Security Police in Latvia, SS Obersturmbannfuehrer Strauch, in German, Latvian and Russian.

262

I present to the Court a certified photostat of the notice as document No. USSR-262. I read an extract from this document:

"The Commander of the German State Security Police in Latvia hereby announces the following:

2. The inhabitants of the hamlet of Audriny in the Rezhetz district hid members of the Red Army with them for over 1/4 of a year, concealed, them, armed them and assisted them in every way in activities against the state.

As punishment I ordered the following:

a/ That the hamlet of Audriny be wiped off the face of the earth".

The Hitlerites widely practised punitive expeditions in the occupied districts of the Leningrad province.

As can be seen from a/ sentence of the Military Tribunal of the Leningrad military district of the 28 Dec. 45 to the 4 Jan. 46, presented

H5153 - 0028

91
11

By the Soviet prosecution as document No. USSR 21 (this sentence it to be found in document book No. 7 on pages 159 - 164), the Hitlerites burnt down, in February 1944, 10 inhabited places in the Dedovitch, Pozherevitz and Ostrov districts.

Hitlerite punitive expeditions also burnt down the hamlets of Strashevo and Zapolye in the Plyuss district, and the hamlets of Bolshye Lyady, Ludeni, etc.

Numerous punitive detachments, acting on the orders of the German Supreme Command, burnt many hundreds of inhabited places on Yugoslav territory under the pretence of fighting the partisans.

I refer as evidence to the 3rd section of the statement of the Yugoslav State commission for the Establishments of the Crimes of the German Usurpers, presented to the Tribunal as document No. USSR 36, and to the special statement of the Yugoslav State commission, numbered 2697/45 and signed by Professor Nedelkovič, which I present to the Tribunal as USSR-309.

309
11

In these documents, a number of facts about the burning and destruction of villages and hamlets by the Hitlerites, by means of special punitive expeditions, are quoted.

As examples one can name the inhabited places of Zagelzdye, Udova, Mečkovac, Marsič, Grašnica , Rudnika, Krupnza, Rastovac, Orah, Crabovica, Dračič, Lozinda, Dražgoše , Zlatopolo, Brezovica, Gradiše and Koreno.

Whole districts of Yugoslavia proved to be completely devastated after the German's had been there.

I shall also present a photostat of a notice by the "Commanderin-Chief, Serbia", which says "that the hamlet of Skola has been burnt down and razed to the ground."

The original of this photostat was found by the troops of the Yugoslav army of liberation in Serbia and is kept in the archive of the Yugoslav State Commission in Belgrade.

200

I present a certified photostat of the notice as document number USSR-200 (corresponding to page 168 of document book No.7).

I read the text of this document:

"N O T I C E.

The commander-in-Chief, Serbia, announces:

In the hamlet of Skela, a communist partisan detachment shot at a German military car.

It was ascertained that certain local inhabitants knew of the preparations for this attack.

It was ascertained that these local inhabitants had had the opportunity to inform the nearest Serbian gendarmerie unit about this unnoticed

It was ascertained that these local inhabitants had had the opportunity to warn those who were to go in the military car, of the attack which was being prepared without any risk at all to themselves. They did not utilize this opportunity, thus showing themselves to be on the side of the partisans.

The hamlet of Skela was burnt down and raged to the ground.

During the course of this, munitions exploded in some houses, which testifies to the participation of the local population.

Those local inhabitants whose participation in this crime was established were shot. 50 Communists were hanged at the place where the crime was committed".

368

German punitive squads destroyed inhabited places in Poland too.

As evidence I present, as document No.USSR-368, an affidavit of the Plenipotentiary of the Polish Government, Mr. Stefan Kurovsky.

H5153 - 0029

H5153 - 0030

This affidavit is an appendix to the Polish Government report and is to be found in our document book No.7 on page 169.

From the document cited it is established that, in the spring of 1943, in the territory of the Zamoisky, Bilgoraisky, Khrubeshovsky and Krasnitzky districts and under the leadership of SS officer Globotchnik, the Germans burnt down a series of inhabited places, and in February 1944, 5 hamlets were destroyed in the Krasnitzky district with the help of the air force.

A considerable number of inhabited places were burnt down and wiped off the face of the earth by the Germans in Greece.

As examples one can enumerate the settlements of Amelofito, Kleiston, Kizonia, Ano-Kertselion and Kato-Kertselion, in the Salonica district, and the settlements of Mesovounos and Selli in the Korzani district and others.

103/11

I present as No.USSR-103 certified photostats of 3 telegraphic reports of the 164th German infantry division to the Chief of Staff of the 12th Army (the reports are in document book No.7, on page 170).

Each of the reports consists of 9 to 10 lines, they are uniform in type and standardized, but these short official documents reveal essentially the monstrous system generally employed by the Hitlerites in the territories occupied by them.

I shall read only one of the reports:

"To Army H.Q.Staff 12 Athens, 18.X.41.

Daily Report. I. The village Ano-Kerzilion (75 km. east of Salonica at the mouth of the Struma). The places proved to be the base of a rather large guerilla band in this area. They were razed to the ground on 17.10 by troops of the division.

The male inhabitants between 16 and 60 years of age (totalling 207 persons) were shot, women and children evacuated.

2. No others special incidents.

164 Inf. Div. ROEM I ".

I shall also refer to the official report of the Greek Government, presented to the Tribunal as USSR-358. On pages 39 and 40 of the report (Russian translation, corresponding to page 207 of document book No.7) numerous facts about the burning and destruction of hamlets on the island of Crete are cited. Thus, the hamlets of Skiki, Prassi and Kanados were completely burnt, in retaliation for the murder of some German parachutistst carried out by employees of the local police at the time of the attack on the island of Crete.

Some hamlets were demolished by the Germans for the only reason that they were in the partisans' zone of operations.

In the report it is stated that of 6,500 hamlets, 1,600 were completely or partially demolished.

One must also note that the Germans intentionally shelled undefended towns and caused heavy damage to 23 Greek towns, among which Yannina, Arta, Preveza, Tukkala, Larissa and Canea were almost completely demolished.

This is mentioned on page 21 of the Greek Government Report (in document book No.7 you will find this place on page 190).

Your Honours! The whole world knows about the Hitlerites' misdeeds at Lidice.

The 10th June 1942 was the last day of Lidice and of its inhabitants.

H5153 - 0031

H5153 - 0032

The fascist barbarians left irrefutable evidence of their monstrous crime. They had a film made of the Annihilation of Lidice, and we are able to show this cinematographic document before the Court.

The documentary genuineness of the film presented has been established by special investigations conducted at the request of the Czechoslovak Government.

The material obtained from these investigations, which forms an official appendix to the Czechoslovak Government's report, is presented by me to the Tribunal, as USSR-370 (it is contained in your book of document on p. 213).

The materials presented establish that the photographing of the Lidice tragedy was entrusted, by the so-called protector, to the NSDAP consultant on cinematography, Franz Treml and accomplished by him in conjunction with Miroslav Wagner.

With your permission, Your Lordship, we begin the demonstration.

What the Hitlerites committed in Lidice, was after some time repeated by them in another inhabited place in Czechoslovakia - the hamlet of Lezaky.

As proof I shall refer to the Czechoslovak Government's report (pages 126-127) presented to the Court as USSR-60 (this corresponds to pages 217-218 of document book No. 7).

The report states:

"Lezaky, like Lidice, was totally destroyed and the ground where it had stood was covered over with mud".

V. The destruction of villages and towns, of industry and transport in the territory of the USSR.

Your Honors, I have quoted above the general directives of the criminal German Government and the German Supreme Command concerning the destruction of inhabited centres of industry

and communications in the U.S.S.R.
Now I pass on to the presentation of proofs of the destruction which took place in execution of these directives.
As early as the 6th January 1942 the note of the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., V.M. Molotov indicated (this document has been presented to the Court as No. 51/2, and the extract quoted will be found on Page 3 of document book No.7).
Wherever the German invaders have set foot on Soviet territory, they have brought with them the ruin and destruction of our cities, villages and hamlets. Scores of cities and thousands of villages and hamlets in the temporarily occupied areas of the Soviet Union have been devastated by them or burnt to the ground. Numerous facts are on record testifying to the wanton destruction or demolition by German troops of municipal buildings, establishments and structures, and even of entire city blocks, as was the case in Minsk, Kiev, Novgorod, Kharkov, Rostov, Klinin and elsewhere. Towns such as Istra, Klin and Rogachevo in the Moscow Region, Yukhnov in the Kalinin Region, Velizh in the Smolensk Region and a great number of others have been reduced to ruins. Hundreds of villages and hamlets in the Ukraine and in Byelorussia, and in the Moscow, Leningrad, Tula and other regions of our country have been razed to the ground.

The scale of the destruction caused by the Hitlerites is borne witness to by the data, amongst many other, quoted in the note of the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. V.M. Molotov dated the 27th April 1942.
This document has been presented as U.S.S.R. - 51/3 and the extract quoted is on page 7 of documents book.

In 25 districts of Moscow region which had been occupied by the invaders they devastated 537 villages completely, particularly laid waste 938 villages, completely destroyed.

H5153 - 0033

H5153 - 0034

38,423 dwelling houses in the countryside and 5,140 urban dwelling houses, 947 schools (of the total 1,220), 159 hospitals, 54 kindergartens and nurseries, 491 clubhouses, as well as 66 bakeries, 109 restaurants, 788 stores, 1055 stables, 3,169 cattle,sheds, 13,610 granaries and barns, 747 auxiliary establishments, etc. In 25 districts of the Tula Region, during the period of their occupation the German army burnt to the ground 316 villages, 19,164 peasants' houses, 299 schools, and 2.950 threshing barns, granaries, stables and cattle-sheds. The ancient Russian town of Staritsa is in ruins. Here they razed th hospital, library, theatre and children's home. Of the 866 buildings in the town Bogoroditsk, 534 have been completely destroyed by fire. In Stalingorsk the damag caused to housing alone is estimated at 278,000,000 rubles. The invaders methodi- cally laid waste to the city of Kaluga, street after street, in the course of several days. Exactly the same scene of planned devastation could be witnessed in scores of other cities of the Russian regions as well as in the Ukraine, in Byelorussia, in Moldavia, and in the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic.

Later on, I shall refer to separate reports of the Extraordinary State Commission which have been presented to the Court, and will quote only brief extracts from these statements as well as from other official documents.

From the report of the Extraordinary State Commission presented as U.S.S.R.-9 it is established that the German occupiers in Kiev destroyed the machinery and metallurgical plants "Bolshevik" and "Krasky", "Excavator" which had supplied industry, transport and agriculture with machinery, equipment and spare parts; they blew up, burnt and destroyed the whole of the railway equipment of the largest railway junction of Kiev-Darnitza: they blew up all railway bridges across the river Dnieper, and the railway viaducts in the city; they blew up and burnt large factories - the textile ones, the spinning- and-knitting one, the sewing factory, the foot-wear factory, and others.

The fascists blew up, burnt and destroyed the electric power stations and electric network, the tram and trolleybus parks, the water supply and drainage system, as well as bread making factories and other industrial concerns and thus deprived the population of one of the largest cities of water, bread, heating, lighting and meansof transport.

The German-fascist barbarians blew up and totally destroyed by fire the main street, - Kreshtchatik, as well as the best buildings in the adjoining streets. They destroyed 340 buildings belonging to State and Public institutions of an approximate area of one million square metres, amongst these the buildings of the Supreme Council of the Ukrainian SSR, the General Post Office etc.; 1,742 communal houses with an approximate inhabitable area of 500 thousand square metres. As a result of these crimes over 200,000 inhabitants of Kiev were left homeless.

From the report of the Extraordinary State Commission, presented as USSR-2, it is established that the German-fascist usurpers and their accomplices, acting in accordance with the plans of the German Supreme Command, destroyed coal pits, electric power stations, metallurgical, chemical and machine-building plants, cultural institutions, schools, hospitals, theatres, museums and the communal economy of towns and settlements in the area of the Don basin.

They blew up and destroyed 154 pit shafts, 15,517 metres in length, 192 guiding slides, 293 lifts. Of the total of 52 steam boilers, there were put out of commission 393 boilers with a heating area of 37,315 square metres. Of the 218 surface buildings, there were blown up and burnt 241 buildings with a capacity of 365,430 cubic metres.

H5153 - 0035

The occupiers destroyed 266 machine buildings of 260,067 cubic metres capacity, 183 buildings belonging to transformer substations of 80,328 cubic metres capacity, 161 scaffoldings 17,751 metres in lenght. Before their retreat they destroyed and inundated in the mines 1,900 coal-cutting machines, 1,209 conveyor plants, 802 electric locomotives, 1,651 electric drills, 760 pumps, 1,065 scrapping winches and 4,155 coal-breaking hammers. In the "Stalinugol" combine alone there were destroyed 1,126,900 square metres of dwelling space.

Enormous destruction was caused by the German usurpers to the town economy of the town of Stalino. They burnt the tram-park, destroyed 37 kilometres of tram lines, 35 kilometres of overhead wires, destroyed the town's waterworks and the electrical installations and equipment of the town. When retreating from Stalino the Hitlerites totally destroyed 3,761 houses with dwelling space of 1,207,470 square metres, 113 schools, 62 kindergartens, 390 shops, the winter and the summer theatres seating 1,100 people, The Palace of Pioneers, the Radio theatre, the Museum of the Revolution, the picture gallery, the Dzerzhinsky Club, and some of the other best buildings of the town

As established by the Extraordinary State Commission (I am referring to USSR-35), in the Kamenetz-Podolsk region, the German usurpers burnt down 33 villages and 530 other inhabited places.

The verdict of the Military Tribunal of the Leningrad Military District, presented to the Court as USSR-91, established (I am quoting the extract which is on page 160 of document book No. 7):

"The German barbarians destroyed in the Leningrad region either totally or in part 20 towns, 3,135 hamlets and villages, 152,338 houses, 3,783 industrial concerns, 1,933 schools, 256 medical institutions, 235 children's homes, kindergartens and créches, 1,019 theatres, cinematographs, clubs,

H5153 - 0036

H5153 - 0037

Red Club-rooms, museums and numerous other buildings and constructions.

As established by the Extraordinary State Commission (I refer to the U.S.S.R.-35), in the Kalinin region, the Hitlerites burnt and destroyed all inhabited places in the Mitkovsky, Korostelsky, Kryatinsky, Antonovsky, Ramensky, Zelenitchensky, Pavlovsky and Grishensky village councils of the Rjevsky district. In the Yemelyanovsky district they burnt down about 80% in Turginovsky- 60% of houses. In the Pogoryelsky district, of the 7000 homes belonging to members of collective farms they burnt over 5.000.

I am going to read extracts from the report of the Extraordinary State Commission, presented to the Court as U.S.S.R.-56, concerning the town of Smolensk (you will find them on pages 227-229 of document book No.7) :

Destruction of Communal Economy.

Special detachments of incendiaries blew up and burnt big new buildings, whole blocks and streets. Steel girders were cut out from concrete buildings with acetylene blow-lamps and transported to Germany. Of the 8.000 buildings with an effective area of over 650 thousand square metres - 7,300 were destroyed and burnt. Also destroyed were a concrete three span arched bridge with double tramway tracks constructed in 1930 - 1931, which connected Za-dnieprovye (Trans. note: part of the city beyond the river Dnieper) with the centre of the city; a three span iron bridge with granite faced concrete beams; two viaducts across the railway track near Smolensk station; all bath houses and subsidiary undertakings of the bath house and laundry combine.

The whole of the Tramway equipment consisting of 27 kilometres of rails, overhead wires and the tramway depot, were rendered unserviceable by the German occupiers. The waterworks were put out of action. The population of the city was left without water.

When they retreated from Smolensk, they destroyed the electric power

H5153 - 0038

power station, l i v i n g the city without light and without electric power. They put the turbines, boilers and transformers out of action.

Destruction of industry

The German usurpers demolished all of Smolensk's 96 factories and works;

Destruction of the Railway Junction.

Smolensk Railway Junction, which connects the Capital of the Soviet Union with the most important economic and industrial centres of the country and through which doyens of goods and passenger trains passed daily on their way to Moscow, Minsk, Briansk, Vitebsk and Sukhinitchy was totally destroyed by the occupiers. The locomotive and wagon production plant, the equipment of the railway workshops, and power stations, the communication network and the automatic blocking devices, as well as the rolling stock, were transported to Germany. On withdrawing from Smolensk, the German occupiers blew up 194 kilometres of railway sidings, 700 railway points, 5 depots , 3 turntables and 7 water towers; they demolished 3 kilometres of loading and unloading platforms. 18,300 square metres of service buildings and 9 bath houses; they destroyed and burnt 228 inhabitable buildings, with a total area of 38 thousand square metres.

The total damage to the railway junction is estimated at 60,5 million roubles.

As established by the Extraordinary State Commission, I have in mind U.S.S.R,-279 which has been presented to the Court-, in Vyazma, of a total of 5,500 buildings there remained standing only 51 wooden houses. Between the 20 th of

H5153 - 0039

February and the 6th March 1943, the Germans effected 476 explosions which demolished the best buildings in the town.

In Gzhatsk, of a total of 1,600 buildings only 300 remained.

In Sychevka of 1,000 homes, there were blown up and burnt down 770 buildings.

In the Sychersky district the German occupiers burnt 137 to the ground.

The ancient Russian town of Rzhev was reducted by the German occupiers to a heap of ruins. Of a total of 5,443 buldings, only 495 more or less intact homes remained.

Burnt down and destroyed were the works buildings of mechanical, timber industries, spirits and vodka, oil silk-spinning, button etc. factories. The Germans blew up the railway bridge across the Volga and 5 bridges across the river Kolynka.

In Rzhev, the Fascists cut down all gardens and parks down to the last tree .

The report of the Extraordinary State Commission, presented as U.S.S.R - 46 (the extract from the report is to be found on pages 47 - 48 of document book No. 7). points out :

"The German-Fascist usurpers pillaged and destroyed the ancient Russian town of Orel. Works, factories, hospitals, Sanatoria, educational establishments, museums and theatres were turned into ruins by the Hitlerites. They destroyed almost totally cultural institutions inhabitable houses, the buildings and equipment of industrial and communal undertakings, the equipment and rolling stock of the railway junction and of the tramways, of the 36 educational establishments of the town, where 18 thousand children, youths and young girls received their education, there remained fit for rebuilding only 6 buildings of a well equipped N.K.O.P.R. hospital with 600 beds there remained only heaps of rubble and bits of iron. In the same barbarian way the Hitlerites treated the municipal Syemashko hospital. They demolished the stone buildings of the maternity home, children,s

polyclinic, children,s hospital, women,s consulting clinic, childrens sanatorium and other curative and prophylactic institutions.
In the same manner the Fascist usurpers wrought havoc in the district of the Orlov region. They destroyed the towns of Mzensk, Volkhov, Kromy and others. According to incomplete data, in the 19 districts of the Orlov region they destroyed and demolished 583 buildings belonging to state institutions, 317 buildings belonging to industrial concerns, 316 buildings of the transport economy, 881 buildings forming part of educational establishments and sultural institutions, 18 buildings belonging to medico-sanitory institutions, 284 communal buildings, 493 buildings belonging to commercial concerns. 56, 866 agricultural constructions. Where, before the arrwal of the barbarian - German occupiers, there stood well organised towns and flourishing collective farms, there now remained only heaps of ruins and ashes.

I further quote one paragraph from the report of the Extraddinary State Commussion, presented as USSR - 38 (you will find it on P. 40 document book No. 7) :

> They burned down or blew up 23 of the largest factories, the railway carriage repair works, the machine-tool building plant, the "Proletarii" glass factory, two brick mills and the "Gaarnik" Scales Manufacturing Plant; they destroyed four hotels, eleven bakeries, confectionery and biscuit factories and the knitted-goods mill, meat packing plants, the "Oktyabr" and Garment Factories named after Krupskaya; they put out of commission the sewage system the telephone and telegraph network.

The Germans also destroyed and plundered the towns of Bryansk, Bobruisk, Karatchew and Zhizdra.

In their bestial hatred of the Latvian people, the German usurpers, during their retreat, burned, blew up and destroyed homes and industrial concerns of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic.

H5153 - 0040

H5153 – 0041

I shall quote an extract from the report of the Extraordinary State Commission, presented as USSR-41.

"The German usurpers destroyed in Riga the largest concerns the State Electrotechnical works "B.E.F.", the state wagon works "Vairogs", the rubber goods factory "Kvadrat" and 13 hotels; they rendered useless the water- supply installations and the telegraph and telephone network. They blew up the Kegumsky Hydro-electric power station of 55 thousand Kilowatts, destroyed the Riga port and the railway junction, destroyed 300 Kilometres of railways, 6 Kilometres of tramway lines and 100 Kilometres of electric overhead wires and damaged 300 tramcars."

The Germans destroyed in Riga 2,789 houses; demolished whole blocks of buildings erected in the 15 th - 17 th centuries.

In Daugavpils /Dvinsk, the Hitlerites blew up the People's Palace, the railway station, the wagon repairshops, the depot and the electric power station, they demolished 40 local industrial undertakings; destroyed 4 hotels, 15 public baths, the telephone and telegraph net and 2.896 homes.

I shall quote an extract from the report of the Extraordinary State Commission, presented as U.S.S.R.-7 (you will find this extract on page 248 of document-book No 7)

The destruction of the industry, communal economy and transport of the Lithuanian S.S.R.

The Hitlerite usurpers caused immense destruction to the industry of the Lithuanian S.S.R. They blew up large electric power stations of the republic: The Vilnyussky, of 9.000 Kilowatts, and the Kaunassky of 16 thousand Kilowatts. They destroyed, burnt and plundered all the basic industrial concerns in the towns of Lithuania.

In the town of Kaunas the Germans destroyed the metal-lurgical works "Metalas" the optical factory "Spektras", the rubber factory "Guma", the meatcombir the glass factory, 3

milling combines and 2 soap factories.

In the town of Vilnyus the usurpers destroyed the radio-apparatus factory. "Electrit," the saw mills and plywood works. In the down of Shaulyay they burnt and destroyed the first class leather factory No. 6, the foot wear factory "Vatas", which manufactured up to 2 thousand pairs of footwear daily; 3 confectionery facteries, breweries and the butter factory.

In the town of Kauyoy Vilno the Germans destroyed the lathe making plant and the paper factory; in the small town of Shventupey they burnt down the spirit distillery.

... They burnt a number of line and brick kilns. In Panebejis they blew up 7 flour mills and a bread factory. Throughout the whole territory of the republic, the Germans demolished a great number of small industrial and handicraft concerns.

The German-Fascist usurpers barbarously destroyed the communal ecchomy of the towns of Lithuania. Apart from the electric power stations, they destroyed in Vilnyus the gas works, the waterpumping station withall its equipment, the Kannas waterworks in Ayguly with the water reservoir in Talyakalnis. The town's population was left without lights or water. In Vilnyus, the Germans blew up the new bridges across the river Neris(Viliu), in Kannas they destroyed three bridges: 2 across the river Nemmunas and one across the river Neris (Vilia).

Before their retreat from Lithuania, beginning on the 6th of July 1944, during 7 days, the German-Fascist usurpers continuously blew up and burnt the best equipped houses and public buildings in towns and destroyed whole blocks and streets. One of the central streets of the town of Vilnyus-Vokietchu-the centre of commercial houses, was after the departure of the Germans a heap of ruins. In the town of Kannas the Germans burnt a suburb, Vilyampolye, complete with its population, and distroyed Birshtono street. Altogether, in the towns of Vilnyus and Kannas, 4,612 houses of 8,414 cubic metres capacity were destroyed, The district towns of Vilkabishkis and Kaseynyay were blown up and burnt.

H5153 – 0042

H5153 - 0043

The Hitlerites caused great destruction to communications' establishments...The German usurpers devatated the railway economy Lithuamia. They blewuup, burnt and destroyed the railway's electric power stations, depots, and locomotive repair shops, near the town of Kaunas, they blew up railway bridges across the river Niemunas with a total length of 332 meters, across the river Neris with a total length of 301 meters and 49 other bridges; they destroyed 330 kilometers of main railway lines and 46 kilometers of station lines, blew up the station buildings in Kaunas, Turmontas, Dukshtas, Jaslyay and Vorena, destroyed the railway stations in Vilnyus, Shventchenelyay, Pabradye, etc; they either destroyed or blew up 4,236 goods wagons 257 passanger wagons and 183 locomotives".

Finally, I shall read and extract from the report of the Extraordinary State Commission presented as USSR - 39:

"During the last pre-war year, industry developed in Estonia at a great rate. Of great inportance for its national economy was the slate industry. The quarrying of slates in 1941, was according to the plan, to have reached several million tons. The slate industry was the basis for the growing chemical industry of Esthonia.

The German barbarians almost totally destroyed the undertakings of the slate industry. Thus , at the liquefying works in Sillamyae the Germans removed all equipment and destroyed the greater part of the biulding. They totally destoyed the factories of Kokhtla and Kivielly.

The Hitlerites destoyed metallurgical concerns in Tartu, the machine making and metal lurgical plants, in Narwa - the foundry, in Piarno the motorbuilding plant-"Esty Motor".

In Tallinn at the large machine-making plant "Ilmarine" the Hitlerites destoyed the steel foundry shop. In Tartu they plundered the equipment of the telephone factory and destroyed its building.

Of the large concerns producing building materials.

H5153 - 0044

the Hitlerites caused material damage to the cement works of "Punanye-Kunda' In the brick factory of "Punanye Kivi" in the district of Viruma they completely demolished the equipment and the greater part of the buildings, and also destroyed the "Esti Diatomit" factory, producing high-quality heat - isolating materials.

In the veneer furniture combine at Tallinn the Hitlerites completely demolished the veneering, drying, carpentering and dying workshops and the saw-mills and burnt stocks of raw-materials, semi-manufactured products and finished products. They completely demolished the paper factory in the town of Turi.

The Fascists reduced the Narva cotton factory "Krengolmskaya Manufactura" to ruins. It was a giant of the textile industry; even before the first World War it had about half a million spindles. The Germans completely demolished other textile concerns in Narva: linen, cloth and silk-weaving factories.

Of the concerns of the food industry, the Fascists completely destroy in Tallinn the great cereal combine of "Pykhya Veski" and the sweet factory "Kvalitet".

The destruction of the communal economy of towns.

The German Fascist usurpers burnt down and demolished 9,200 houses in the towns of Esthonia. A particularly large number of demolitions were carried out at Narva on the orders of the commander of the 4th Panzer-grenadier brigade "Niederland", Lieutenant-General Wagner. Out of 3,500 houses in Narva, only 114 remained, and they need considerable repairs. At Tartu, of 5,083 houses, 2,432 were demolished. At Tallinn the Germans demolished 1,885 houses.

The German Fascist usurpers intended to turn the capital of Esthonia into a heap of ruins. After the liberation of Tallinn, 75 mined places were found and over 100 tons of explosives and mines were removed. Under Vyzhgorod mine galleries were found, in one of which there were 12 tons of explosives.

H5153 - 0045

The Hitlerites caused great damage to the communal city enterprises They destroyed 60 out of 120 hotels and wayside inns. In Tarin, for instance, only 2 out of 11 hotels remained. From the former 71400 kilowatt electric power station only about 11 thousand Kilowatts remained.

During the flight from Estonia, the Hitlerites intended to destroy all the electric stations. However they did not succeed in doing this. On the approach of the Red army, the workpeople of some of the electric stations, with arms in there hands; arose to defend the public property. At the Tallinn electric station, the German demolition companies came 4 times, but retired on meeting the armed guard of workpeople. Then the Hitlerites opened fire on the electric stations from their warships which were in the port. With arms in their hands the workpeople were also successful in defending the Tallinn Waterworks and gasworks.

Your Honours. There are a large number of documents at the disposal of the Soviet prosecution accusing the Hitlerite criminals of the premeditated and systematic, calculated and cruel annihilation and destruction of towns and villages, works and factories, railways and means of communication.

The foresentation of all this documentation would seriously delay the prese trial.

Therefore I consider it possible to discontinue the presentation of further individual documents and will quote certain final data which have been established by the Extraordinary State Commission.

From the document No. USSR-35 which has been presented to the Tribunal, I wi only quote these sections which have not been quoted previously and only those which directly concern the theme I am eXopounding.

These extracts, you will find on pages 223-224 in document book No.7

I quote:

The Fascist German intruders totally or partially destroyed and burnt 1,710 towns and more than 70,000 villages and hamlets, burnt and destroyed more than 6 million buildings and rendered some 25 million persons homeless. Among the destroyed towns which suffered most are the great industrial and

Stalingrad, Sebastopol, Leningrad, Kiev, Minsk, Odessa, Smolensk, Novgorod, Pskov, Orel, Kharkov, Voronesh, Rostov on the Don and many others.

The Fascist German intruders destroyed 31,850 industrial concerns, in which some 4 million workers were employed.

From this criminal activity of the German fascist the following branches of Soviet industry suffered the heaviest losses.

Coal mining. In the Donetz basin and in the Moscow coalfield, the Fascist German intruders destroyed 1,135 mines, which gave employment to 337,000 workers and produced over 100 million tons of coal yearly. They stole and removed to Germany: 2,400 electric and Diesel mine locomotives, 2,700 coal-cutting machines, 15,000 mining hammers, 5,000 pumps, 2,800 compressors and ventilators, 160,000 lorries; they destroyed and plundered power-stations supplying coal-mines with current.

Petroleum industry. In the oilfields of Grozny and in the province of Krasnodar, the Fascist German intruders destroyed, by bombing and other methods more than 3,000 oil-boring towers with a yearly yield of some 5 million tons of oil.

They blew up a vacuum distilling plant in Grozny with a yearly yield of 660,000 tons of petroleum products and a Craking plant which dealt with 227,000 tons of oil yearly, as well as the Craking works in Odessa and Kharkov. They destroyed the Krasnodar oil refinery; they put the "Grozny-Trudovaya" pipe-line out of action, and in 720 oil depots destroyed metal containers of a total capacity of 2 million cubic metres.

Power-stations. During the period of occupation and, in particular, during their withdrawal, the Germans destroyed the mighty power plants on the Dnieper, in the Donetz basin, in Leningrad and Kharkov in the province of Krasnodar, in Kiev, Voronesh, the Crimea and the White Russian Soviet Republic and on the Kola peninsula and removed the most valuable parts of the equipment of the power-stations to Germany.

They blew up, burnt down and partially destroyed 61 very large and numerous small power-stations with a total production of some 5 million kilowatts. They put some 10,000 kilometres of electrical high-tension mains, out of action, destroyed over 12,000

H5153 - 0046

H5153 – 0047

power-station and repeater-station buildings and removed 14,000 boilers, 1,400 turbines and 11,300 current generators to Germany.

Smelting and non-ferrous metal industry. The Fascist German intruders completely or partially destroyed 37 smelting work in which 168,000 people were employed. In these works 11 million tons of pig-iron, 10 million tons of steel and 8 million tons of rolled metals were produced yearly. 62 smelting furnaces, 213 Martin furnaces, 248 rollers and 4,740 coke furnaces with a yearly production of 19 million tons of coke were destroyed or partially demolished by the Germans. They demolished 29 factories for fire-proof products and 18 metal mines with a yearly yield of over 20 million tons of Ore.

The Fascist German intruders destroyed or put out of action 12 major concerns in the non-ferrous metal industry; the aluminium, magnesium and electrode works on the Dnieper, the clay works and bauxite mines in Tikvin.

Construction of machinery. The Fascist German intruders inflicted enormous damage on the machinery industry.

The destroyed 749 works engaged on the construction of heavy and medium machinery, in which 919,000 workers, engineers, technicians and office staff were employed. The following major concerns suffered particularly: the Kramatorsk works, with 25,000 workers, the Voroshilovgrad works with 23,000 workers the works in Beshetsk, with 20,000 workers, that in Kharkov, with 5,000 workers, that in Taganrog, with 4,000 workers, that in Ludinov, with 6,000 workers, and the Leningrad works "Russky Diesel", with 3,000 workers.

The Hitler-Fascists did great damage to the works producing tractors, motor cars railway trucks, motor cycles and bicyles. They destroyed 21 such works completely and 27 partially; thus they wrecked the great Stalingrad and Kharkov tractor works; they destroyed the repair and ballbearing factories at Kharkov, Gomel and Rostov and the railway wagon factories at Kalinin, Kriukovo and Beshitsa, with a yearly production of 23,000 goods trucks; they demolished the motor-car trailer factory at Lodeinoye Pole and Belsk, the Kharkov bicycle factory

H5153 - 0048

and the Leningrad motor-cycle factory.

The Fascist German intruders destroyed 64 factories producing work-benches and whetstones, among them those in Kharkov, Kramatorsk, Krasnodar, Kiev, Odessa, Minsk, Leningrad and others.

They completely destroyed 169 factories constructing machinery for agriculture, the chemical, woodworking and paper industries, among them the "Komintern Works", and the "Krassny Aksay", "Rostselmash", "Kommunar", "Bolshevik", "Krasnaya Zvezda", "Serp i Molot", and "Oktyabraskaya Revolutsiya" works.

The Germans did great damage to the works of the electro-technical industry which construct current generators, electro-motors, transformers, electric locomotives and other equipment. They destroyed 41 factories, among them the electro-mechanic works (Chems) at Kharkov and the Leningrad works: "Elektrosila", "Elektroprovod" and "Krassnaya Zarya".

Timber and paper industry. The Fascist German intruders destroyed numerous timber procuring concerns with a yearly production of 64 million cubic metres of wood fibre, 260 saw mills and other woodworking concerns, with a yearly production of 12 million cubic metres of sawn material, and 28 ply-wood factories with a yearly production of 380,000 cubic metres of ply-wood.

In addition they destroyed 14 match factories, with a yearly production of approximately 4 million packages of matchboxes, and 77 paper and cellulose concerns, with a yearly production of 300,000 tons of paper.

Textile and light industry. In the textile and light industry the usurpers destroyed 120 cotton goods factories,75 hosiery factories, 69 linen factories,125 flax and jute factories,36 woollen goods factories, 12 factories of the tobacco industry, 8 artificial textile factories, 160 enterprises connected with the leather and shoe industries and more than 100 glass factories. As a result of this destruction, the textile industry lost 3 million spindles and over 45,000 weaving looms.

H5153 - 0049

The Food, Meat and Dairy Industries. In the food, meat and dairy industri the Fascist German intruders completely demolished and destroyed 204 factories producing sugar, 649 producing spirits, 47 preserves and 29 oil and fats. 43 tobacco factories and concerns connected with fermentation, 157 bakeries, 4,490 slaughter houses, as well as cheese factories and dairies.

Building materials industry. The Fascist German intruders destroyed 409 concerns of the building materials industry. Amongst them, they entirely demolished the largest Cement works of Yenakiyevo, Kritchev and Bryansk, as well as the Novorossusk works "Proletary" and "Oktyabr".

Communications. During the occupation of a part of the Soviet Union and especially during the withdrawal, the Fascist German intruders caused great damage to Rail Water and River communications.

With special machines for destroying buildings above ground, they put 26 main railway lines out of action and partially damaged 8, they destroyed 65,000 kilometres of rails and 500,000 km of cables for signals and brake installations, as well as those of the railway telegraph and telephone lines. They blew up 13,000 railway bridges of a total length of approximately 300 km, 4,100 railway stations, 1,200 pumping stations, 1,600 water towers and 3,200 hydrants. They destroyed 317 locomotive depots and 129 locomotive and waggon repair shops, as well as railway construction installations.

They destroyed, damaged or took away 15,800 locomotives and Diesel locomotives and 428,000 waggons.

The enemy caused great damage to the buildings, enterprises, institutions and ships of the shipping lines operating in the Arctic Sea, the White Sea, the Baltic sea, the Baltic and the Black and Caspian seas. They sunk or partially damaged more than 1,400 passenger, cargo and special ships.

The sea ports of Sebastopol, Mariupol, Kerch, Novorossiisk, Odessa, Nikolayev, Leningrad, Murmansk, Lepaya, Tallinn and others equipped with modern technical installations, sufferdd greatly.

The usurpers sank or stole 4,280 passenger and cargo steamers and steam tugs of the inland shipping services and the technical auxiliary services, as well as 4,029 tug boats. They destroyed 479 harbour and landing bridge installations, amongst them the ports of Leningrad, Stalingrad and Kiev. They destroyed buildings of the White Sea-Baltic Sea canal and of the Moscow-Volga canal, 89 wharves and machine factories.

The German troops who had to retreat before the assault of the Red Army, blew up and destroyed 91,000 km of highways and 90,000 road bridges, of a total length of 930 km."

VI. CONCLUSION.

May it please, Your Honors, with this I now conclude.

The documents presentation to the Tribunal and read into the record clearly demonstrate how the Hitlerite conspirators, in all the territories captured by them in the USSR, Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Greece, trampled upon the laws and customs of war, the fundamental principles of Criminal Law and the plain provisions of articles 46 and 50 of the Hague Convention of 1907.

The documents submitted also show that in the plans of the German invaders, the complete destruction was contemplated of cities and villages from which the Hitlerites were compelled to retreat under the blows of the armed forces of the Soviet Union.

The documents submitted show finally with what bestial cruelty and mercilessness the Hitlerites

H5153 - 0050

H5153-0051

put into practice their criminal plans, reducing to dust and ashes the largest cultural and industrial centres.

Over a wide area from the White to the Black and the Aegean Seas, in territory temporarily occupied by the German troops, the Hitlerites purposely and according to plan reduced to ruins densely-populated and flourishing Russian, Byelorussian, Yugoslavian, Greek and Czechoslovakian cities, towns and villages.

All this was the result of the criminal activities of the Hitlerite government and the German High Command. I therefore charge all the defendants and each one of them individually with the commission of crimes as enumerated in article (b) of the Charter of the International Military Tribunal.

H-5153

Document Book 7

H5153-0052